WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A multifunction apparatus, which is so adapted that any device of a plurality of types can be selectively attached thereto, for executing control that differs depending upon the type of device attached, the apparatus comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting a timing signal, which is for acquiring identifying information stored in an attached device, to the attached device;

receiving means for receiving the identifying information that has been sent from the attached device in accordance with the timing signal;

determination means for determining, with regard to a device of a specific type, whether specific data contained in the identifying information is indicative of a predetermined value; and

control means for exercising control upon construing that the attached device is of the specific type in a case where the determination means has determined that the specific data is indicative of the predetermined value.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means includes means for giving notification of the fact the attached device has not been electrically

connected correctly if said determination means has determined that the specific data is not indicative of the predetermined value.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the identifying information is digital information comprising a plurality of bits and is transmitted serially from the attached device, said specific data comprising two or more bits transmitted in succession.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined value is such that the values of the bits thereof differ alternately.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein devices include a device having an information input function and a device having an information output function.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein devices include a scanner unit for reading a document image and a printhead cartridge for outputting an image to a printing medium.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the printhead cartridge includes an ink-jet printhead for printing by discharging ink, and an ink tank containing

ink supplied to said printhead.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said printhead discharges ink by utilizing thermal energy and has a thermal energy converter for generating thermal energy applied to the ink.

9. A method of identifying a device that has been attached to a multifunction apparatus, which is so adapted that any device of a plurality of types can be selectively attached thereto, for executing control that differs depending upon the type of device attached, the method comprising:

a transmitting step of transmitting a timing signal, which is for acquiring identifying information stored in an attached device, to the attached device;

a receiving step of receiving the identifying information that has been sent from the attached device in accordance with the timing signal;

a determination step of determining, with regard to a device of a specific type, whether specific data contained in the identifying information is indicative of a predetermined value; and

a control step of exercising control upon construing that the attached device is of the specific type in a case where said determination step has

determined that the specific data is indicative of the predetermined value.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said control step further includes a step of giving notification of the fact the attached device has not been electrically connected correctly if said determination step has determined that the specific data is not indicative of the predetermined value.

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein the identifying information is digital information comprising a plurality of bits and is transmitted serially from the attached device, said specific data comprising two or more bits transmitted in succession.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the predetermined value is such that the values of the bits thereof differ alternately.

13. The method according to claim 9, wherein devices include a device having an information input function and a device having an information output function.

14. The method according to claim 9, wherein devices include a scanner unit for reading a document image and

a printhead cartridge for outputting an image to a printing medium.

15. A computer program product executed by a multifunction apparatus, which is so adapted that any device of a plurality of types can be selectively attached thereto, for executing control that differs depending upon the type of device attached, said computer program product having program code corresponding to the following steps:

a transmitting step of transmitting a timing signal, which is for acquiring identifying information stored in an attached device, to the attached device;

a receiving step of receiving the identifying information that has been sent from the attached device in accordance with the timing signal;

a determination step of determining, with regard to a device of a specific type, whether specific data contained in the identifying information is indicative of a predetermined value; and

a control step of exercising control upon construing that the attached device is of the specific type in a case where said determination step has determined that the specific data is indicative of the predetermined value.

16. A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program executed by a multifunction apparatus, which is so adapted that any device of a plurality of types can be selectively attached thereto, for executing control that differs depending upon the type of device attached, said computer program comprising program code corresponding to the following steps:

a transmitting step of transmitting a timing signal, which is for acquiring identifying information stored in an attached device, to the attached device;

a receiving step of receiving the identifying information that has been sent from the attached device in accordance with the timing signal;

a determination step of determining, with regard to a device of a specific type, whether specific data contained in the identifying information is indicative of a predetermined value; and

a control step of exercising control upon construing that the attached device is of the specific type in a case where said determination step has determined that the specific data is indicative of the predetermined value.